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Arizona Corporation Commission

AZ CORP COMMISSION

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NOV 06 2000

DOCKETED BY

P.O. Drawer 200 Winter Park, FL 32790-0200

Tel: 407-740-8575 Fax: 407-740-0613 tmi@tminc.com

Re:

Talk.com Holding Corp. d/b/a The Phone Company and also d/b/a Network Services of New Hope formerly known as Tel-Save, Inc. d/b/a The Phone Company and also d/b/a Network

**Services of New Hope** Docket No. U-3342-97-129

## Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed please find the original and ten (10) copies of this letter outlining responses to a data request received by the Commission dated September 18, 2000 filed on behalf of Talk.com Holding Corp. d/b/a The Phone Company and also d/b/a Network Services of New Hope formerly known as Tel-Save, Inc. d/b/a The Phone Company and also d/b/a Network Services of New Hope.

Please provide the value of all plant and equipment currently held by the A. company, intended to be used to provide telecommunications service to Arizona customers.

Response:

The Company proposes to provide local exchange service in Arizona on an Unbundled Network Element Platform (UNE-P) basis. Consequently, the Company will not own any plant or equipment in Arizona which is relevant to this request.

B. Please provide a description of each asset in your response to item A, including the assets cost and location.

Response:

See response to A.

C. Please provide the projected value of all plant and equipment to be used to provide telecommunications service to Arizona customers at the time the Company begins serving its first customer.

Response:

See response to A.

D. Please provide a description of each asset in your response to item C, including the assets cost and location.

Response: See response to A.

E. Please explain how the value of the company's plant and equipment is related to the Company's proposed rates.

Response:

The Company proposes to provide local exchange service in Arizona on a UNE-P basis, so the Company has no plant or equipment investments upon which to base rates for its proposed AZ operations.

Moreover, the Company recognizes that presently, and for the foreseeable future, its position in the local exchange market is that of a price-taker. In other words, for a non-dominant firm operating in a market with a price-leading dominant firm, the non-dominant firm must essentially accept the established rates. The non-dominant firm is not in a position for its costs to drive its rates in the way suggested by this request. Consequently, the Company has never – either for its own purposes or as required by a regulator – evaluated its cost/rate relationship in the manner requested.

Even as competition in the market grows, and the dominant firm's market power recedes, the Company's rates will not be driven by its costs as derived under a Fair Value Rate Base approach, but by the very market in which it operates. Docket Control Center Arizona Corporation Commission November 6, 2000 Page 3

Questions regarding this filing may be directed to my attention at (407) 740-8575.

Please acknowledge receipt of this filing by date-stamping the extra copy of this cover letter and returning it in the self-addressed, stamped envelope enclosed for this purpose.

Sincerely,

Connie Wightman

Consultant to Talk.com Holding Corp.

CW/dm

**Enclosures** 

cc: Tina Tecce

File Talk.com - AZ

TMS: AZI0000a